

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /104 R

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----- 085271

P R 152136Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

JCS

CNO

CINCPACFLT

COMSEVENTHFLT

COMUSMACTHAI

CTF SEVEN TWO

COMMAC SCOTT AFB

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179217

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, TH, MOPS, XO, US

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION TRIP TO DIEGO GARCIA

REF: A. BANGKOK 12992 (NOTAL); B. CINCPAC 110120Z

AUG 74 (NOTAL); C. BANGKOK 13069 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT A CHATCHAI OBSERVATION TRIP

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TO DIEGO GRACIA ABOARD A P-3 SUPPORT ("FOOD AND MATERIEL")

FLIGHT WILL NECESSARILY ADVANCE U.S. INTERESTS. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE DENIAL OF OBSERVATION TRIP MIGHT GIVE IMPRESSION WE HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE AND WE THEREFORE RELUCTANTLY APPROVE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRAVEL ABOARD A P-3 SUPPORT FLIGHT TO DIEGO GARCIA SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES THAT THEY HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO HIS VISITING DIEGO GARCIA. SENIOR THAI MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE PER RECOMMENDATION REF B. TIMING WILL DEPEND UPON WHEN WE RECEIVE BRITISH CONCURRENCE AND WHEN APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE COMPLETED FOR THE ROUND TRIP FLIGHT AND FOR SUITABLE HANDLING OF THAI PARTY ON DIEGO GARCIA.

2. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD INFORM BRITISH AUTHORITIES THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THAI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER (MAJOR GENERAL) CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN AND A SENIOR THAI MILITARY OFFICIAL ON AN OBSERVATION TRIP TO DIEGO GARCIA ABOARD A P-3 SUPPORT FLIGHT FROM U TAPAO ROYAL THAI NAVAL AIR

BASE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. YOU MAY INFORM HMG THAT WE WISH TO DO THIS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THAI RECEPTIVITY TO NON-BELLIGERENT INDIAN OCEAN OPERATIONS OF ALL SORTS CONDUCTED BY THE U.S. FROM THAI BASES. YOU MAY SAY THAT THE FOCUS OF THE TRIP WILL BE ON THE FLIGHT RATHER THAN FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA AND THAT WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO LIMIT THE TIME SPENT ON THE GROUND BY THE VISITORS TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD ASSURE THE BRITISH THAT WE WILL SEEK A THAI COMMITMENT TO AVOID PUBLICIZING THE TRIP IN ANY MANNER AND INDEED WILL NOT SCHEDULE IT IF IT APPEARS THAT IT WILL DRAW SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC ATTENTION. YOU SHOULD INFORM ALL ADDRESSEES BY PRIORITY CABLE OF HMG REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL.

3. FOR CINCPAC: REQUEST YOU PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING P-3 SUPPORT FLIGHTS AND ISSUE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO SUBORDINATE COMMANDS TO FACILITATE TRAVEL BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AND SENIOR THAI MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE, ACCOMPANIED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE EMBASSY BANGKOK AND MACTHAI ESCORT OFFICERS, ON SHORT CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTICE.

4. FOR BANGKOK: YOU SHOULD NOT INFORM THE RTG OR CHATCHAI THAT THE TRIP IS APPROVED UNTIL EMBASSY LONDON HAS OBTAINED HMG CONCURRENCE. IF HMG DOES APPROVE THE VISIT, YOU SHOULD URGE CHATCHAI NOT TO SAY OR LEAK ANYTHING TO THE PRESS ABOUT THE TRIP, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE FACT. THIS WOULD BE IN LINE WITH FM CHARUNPHAN'S EXPRESSED WISH

THAT NO PUBLICITY BE GIVEN TO OUR CONTINUED INDIAN OCEAN
SUPPORT ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED FROM THAI BASES. WE LEAVE
THE SELECTION OF THE SENIOR THAI MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE
TO YOUR DISCRETION BUT NO INVITATION SHOULD BE EXTENDED
PENDING CONSULTATION WITH HMG. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
AND SENIOR THAI MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE AS NOTED IN PARA
3 ABOVE SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE EMBASSY
BANGKOK AND MACTHAI ESCORT OFFICERS. KISSINGER

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